

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 293007
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:GMATTHEWS:GMH
APPROVED BY M:LGELB
EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

-----103441 081814Z /53

R 081649Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PCAT, UR, US

SUBJECT:CONVENTIONAL ARMS TALKS WITH SOVIETS, DECEMBER
14-16

REF: MOSCOW 17694

1. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AS TO
LIKELY TACTICS SOVIET DELEGATION MAY PURSUE DURING INITIAL
SESSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER TALKS BEING HELD
HERE DECEMBER 14-16. OUR PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE IS THAT
SOVIETS ARE COMING MOSTLY TO LISTEN AND DRAW US OUT ON
SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH WE PROPOSE TO APPROACH AN EVENTUAL
AGREEMENT ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS. ALTERNATIVELY,
BUT DEEMED UNLIKELY, WOULD BE A MORE AGGRESSIVE SOVIET
STANCE, POSSIBLY INCLUDING THE PRESENTATION OF SOME
BROADLY FORMULATED, DRAFT DECLARATION AIMED FOR EFFECT
AND AVOIDING SUBSTANCE. IN ANY EVENT, WE ASSUME SOVIET
SIDE IS COMING ARMED WITH FACTS AND FIGURES ON VOLUME AND
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CHARACTER OF US ARMS SALES AND TRANSFERS, AND IS PREPARED
TO CITE CHAPTER AND VERSE IF INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS SEEM
TACTICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS.

2. SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED IN PAST THAT THEY REMAIN SKEPTI-
CAL OF OUR MOTIVES IN THESE TALKS, PERHAPS SUSPECTING THAT

WE SEEK TO RESTRICT THEIR OPTIONS IN PURSUING THEIR
CHERISHED ROLE AS CHAMPION OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ANTI-
COLONIAL FORCES, ETC. NEVERTHELESS, WE NOTE THAT SOVIETS
ARE FIELDING AN IMPRESSIVE FIRST EFFORT TEAM, INCLUDING,
IN ADDITION TO AMBASSADOR KHLESTOV HIMSELF, FILLIPPOV OF
USA INSTITUTE, AND TWO FLAG RANK MILITARY/NAVAL OFFICERS.
EMBASSY MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON EXTENT TO WHICH KHLESTOV'S
LEADERSHIP OF SOVIET DELEGATION MAKES IT MORE LIKELY THAT
SOVIETS ARE COMING TO TALK AS WELL AS LISTEN. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ARMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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